



Incorrect Thrift Savings Plan personal identification numbers issued

Recently, a problem was identified in the Defense Joint Military pay system affecting a small number of service members participating in the Thrift Savings Plan.

Incorrect addresses were provided to the National Finance Center for 1,666 servicemembers. The addresses belonged to other members.

As a result, the NFC mailed pin letters belonging to the 1,666 affected to the wrong members.

The NFC discontinued issuing pin letters to participants until the problem was resolved.

Since the problem has been resolved, the NFC has once again begun issuing pin letters. Although the problem only affected 1,666, NFC issued more than 10,000 letters.

To ensure the privacy of members' accounts, the NFC will reissue letters for all 10,500 members. Even members who were not directly affected will receive new pin letters.

The NFC will suspend the previous pins when they receive the corrected files from DFAS.

There may be a space of a day or two while the new files are loaded that members may not be able to access their accounts.

DFAS has recently implemented precautionary measures to ensure an error such as this doesn't reoccur.



Forging partnerships
During a recent visit to Brooks, Texas Governor Rick Perry (center) conducts a press conference announcing a \$60 million federal funding package for Texas in the fight against bioterrorism. Before the announcement, Perry, along with Texas Homeland Task Force Security Commissioner David Dewhurst (far left), Lt. Gen Richard Reynolds, Aeronautical Systems Center commander (left), Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th Human Systems Wing commander (right) and Eduardo Sanchez, Texas Department of Public Health, reviewed technology that Brooks can contribute to a statewide medical surveillance and emergency response capability.

Photo by Staff. Sgt. Sabrina Johnson

Governor Perry lauds Brooks as Texas 'jewel', announces bioterrorism funding

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Calling Brooks a "real jewel in the state of Texas" for its contributions to national defense through aerospace medical research and technology development, Gov. Rick Perry announced at a press conference here Feb. 28 a \$60 million federal funding package to fight bioterrorism.

"I came to Brooks to spread good news that the state has been given \$8.3 million from the Health Resource Services Administration to help hospitals (prepare for bioterrorism) and \$51.4 million from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) to analyze readiness to bioterrorism that will enhance community-hospital response."

Perry made his announcement at Brooks because of the base's partnerships with local, state and federal agencies that have forged the development of homeland security strategic plans involving bioterrorism surveillance, detection and response and mass casualty remediation.

Prior to the press conference, Perry, Texas Homeland Task Force Security Commissioner David Dewhurst and Texas Department of Health Commis-

sioner Eduardo Sanchez met with Brooks' senior leaders to review technology that can provide Texas with a common statewide medical surveillance and emergency response capability.

"We are your national asset. We've been doing aerospace medicine longer than any place on earth. Our goal is to keep on doing it in support of our nation," said Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, in opening remarks to Gov. Perry during a pre-press conference briefing.

Dr. James Mantock with ScenPro Inc. briefed state leaders on the Lightweight Epidemiology Advanced Detection & Emergency Response System (LEADERS), a web-based application that is being evaluated and developed for military use by the 311th Human Systems Program Office.

LEADERS's primary function is early detection of covert biological warfare incidents or significant infectious disease outbreaks. LEADERS incorporates web-base technologies that can be used by a network of civilian and military hospitals for disease outbreak medical management.

Mantock explained that the system could be used to track hospital bed

availability, coordinate emergency response among multiple agencies and help pinpoint the source of an outbreak.

The LEADERS initiative supports a recommendation made in the Governor's Homeland Security Task Force report released in January.

The recommendation, in part, calls for statewide coordination with various agencies to improve the detection and reporting of possible bioterrorism incidents.

"The early stages of infectious diseases need to be detected locally," Mantock said, calling state and local response to outbreaks the 'battlefront' for safeguarding America.

He explains, "The state plays a critical part in making our nation safe. We have to move faster than the disease."

Mantock told the Texas governor that while early disease detection and information sharing among various agencies is important to mitigating outbreaks, the critical issue that must be addressed among state partners in public health management is how effective are emergency response plans.

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Discovery Editorial Staff:

311th Human Systems Wing Commander

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd

Director of Public Affairs

Larry Farlow

Editor

Cerise Fenton

(cerise.fenton@brooks.af.mil)

Public Affairs NCOIC

Staff Sgt. John Jung

Photography

Senior Master Sgt. T.C. Coaxum

Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Staff Sgt. Sabrina Johnson

Senior Airman Brandy Bogart

Discovery logo

by Arlene Schirmer



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Pia Goodman, Prod. Mgr.
Pat McCain, Classified Mgr.
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Diane Bohl, Sales Manager
Sherry Snoga, Account Exec.
Rose Stewart, Account Exec.
Steve Kalaher, Account Exec.

Advertising
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FAX:
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E-mail:
sblack@txdirect.net



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Diversity — Our asymmetric advantage

By Gen. Lester Lyles

Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — One of the greatest strengths of any organization is found in the diversity of its people.

Men, women, people of all ethnic backgrounds, young and old, the physically disabled, each bring a variety of experiences and insight to our work place.

It's the combination of all of these life experiences and amassed wisdom that forge our greatest strength.

Every member of our Air Force team, from the youngest airman to the grizzled senior NCO, the newest lieutenant, DOD civilian or contractor, has a valuable contribution to make to the defense of our country no matter what their upbringing or experience.

Our Air Force is the greatest in the world largely because of our incredible diversity. It's the single greatest strength we possess a unique and powerful asymmetric advantage unknown to any other military in the world.

More than any other segment of society, we leverage the experiences and insights of men and women from all walks of life. More than any other segment of society, we understand and respect each other's differences and benefit from a multitude of views.

Diversity is particularly important within AFMC, where we are in the "creative" business of developing, producing, providing and sustaining warfighting capability for our nation. The need to be creative and imaginative calls for dynamic thinking and not

a static and solitary viewpoint. Every process we're a part of relies on a wide variety of insights and experiences that are ultimately turned into capabilities in the hands of warfighters.

It only makes sense to take advantage of the mixture of resources at our disposal to meet the challenges we face daily. I encourage you to seek different opinions on solutions, responses and even the very nature of any problems. You'll be surprised at how creative people will be when you ask for their input.

In the Air Force, our vibrant and diverse workforce is drawn together by common goals and values. Instead of dwelling on our differences, we focus on what's important — defending democracy and freedom with the greatest military capability in the history of the world. It's our common goals and values that allow us to harness our differences to an incredible advantage.

Our war on terrorism is a war against those who would destroy the diversity that means so much to our success as individuals, as an organization and as a nation. We are and must be the exact opposite of everything we are fighting in our war on terrorism.

Let me encourage you to create and foster a culture in your organizations that promotes and values diversity. Diversity should not be treated as an end in and of itself. Diversity for diversity's sake means nothing.

It's not a number crunching exercise that plugs people into a statistical model. Diversity is a means for us to be a stronger, more innovative and understanding team.

Air Force future depends on diversity

By Senior Master Sgt. Debbie Maurer

AFMC Military Equal Opportunity Office

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) — Air Force Materiel Command's ability to continually anticipate and develop weapons for tomorrow's Air Force depends on diversity. Diversity promotes innovation by recognizing and utilizing the unique knowledge and abilities available in each individual.

AFMC must be able to cultivate new ideas and innovations, and our diverse workforce arms us with the capability to see all potential aspects of emerging technology and unique solutions to development problems. Each person within AFMC brings a unique background, life experience and thought process with them when they join our team; it's out of these differing characteristics we find our best ideas and implementation strategies for the future.

Overall, AFMC as a command is doing better or as well as the Air Force in attracting and using minority populations.

African-American, Asian-Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Native American, disabled, and women are the primary groups Air Force officials monitor.

Our AFMC military representation is higher than the Air Force for both officers and enlisted members. Officer representation in the command is 17.4 percent compared to 15.3 percent Air Force-wide. Our enlisted force is also well represented coming in at 30.1 percent against the Air Force's 28.8 percent overall.

AFMC's 21.5 percent civilian minority representation is only slightly below the Air Force's 22.8 representation and a National Civilian Labor Force 22.1

percent standard.

These are positive statistics; however, we must press forward to do better.

Our mission - discovering, developing and perfecting the weapons for the Air Force of tomorrow - depends on our continued emphasis on and commitment to diversity.

Often when we think of diversity, the primary focus is on hiring and recruiting a diverse workforce. But diversity should be our focus throughout the entire work life of our workforce.

Making sure we have a diverse workforce is essential not only when we attract workers, but also when we cultivate them. We must make sure our training, mentoring, recognition and promotion programs also emphasize diversity.

It does us no good to attract a diverse workforce unless we also focus our energies on training and mentoring everyone within that workforce. We should begin with a diverse group initially then continue to provide recognition and promotion opportunity for that entire group.

A strong commitment to diversity and equal utilization of our total workforce is essential to retaining our excellent minority candidates into

the upper ranks. Therefore, it's imperative, especially in AFMC where we function on the cutting edge of technology, that we focus our efforts on every step, from hiring to retirement, in order to foster a culture of innovation through workforce diversity — from the newest hires or recruits to our top management teams.

As warriors supporting warriors, our future and the future of the Air Force warfighter depend on our efforts of today in cultivating workforce diversity.



Governor

Continued from Page 1

Col. Rodger Vanderbeek and Eric Stephens detailed the base's contributions to local, state and federal emergency disaster response initiatives with a briefing titled "Texas Partners for Homeland Security."

Vanderbeek, acting director of 311th HSW Plans and Programs, highlighted Brooks support that includes partnerships with the Texas Department of Health and San Antonio Metropolitan Health District involving collaborative training and health studies.

He also outlined past and future bioterrorism education and mass casualty exercises supported by the Brooks-based Office for Applied Solutions in Operational Medicine, an Air Force Surgeon General 'think tank.'

Stephens, director of the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis, showcased some of the base's organizations trained in nuclear, biological and chemical incident response.

These include the Radiological Assessment Team which has provided radiation dose measurements support during nuclear reactor incidents; the Epidemiological Surveillance Laboratory, which provides early identification of unknown pathogens and partners with the CDC and World Health Organization in developing new influenza vaccines; and U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine-trained Expeditionary Medical Support teams, one of which deployed last June to Houston to provide medical assis-

tance to flood victims of Tropical Storm Allison.

Stephens also highlighted some technologies developed by Brooks' organizations that have been used in support of post-Sept. 11 homeland defense activities.

Among them are RAPID Ruggedized Advanced Pathogen Identification Device that can detect in about two hours disease-causing microorganisms, and Remote Casualty Location Assessment Device, which was used to search for World Trade Center victims.

Sanchez said Brooks is a critical asset to Texas for its multiple capabilities that help safeguard public health.

The Texas Health commissioner cited last year's "Alamo Alert" exercise in San Antonio that leveraged the assets of Brooks, local, state and federal agencies in responding to a simulated mass casualty incident.

Some local emergency response organizations that have worked closely with Brooks in planning and implementing these simulated disaster exercises provided post-press conference exhibits here. Among them were the San Antonio Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response Team and its Medical Special Operations Unit.

Bruce Moore, a San Antonio Fire Department paramedic who is a MSOU team leader, said, "We provide decontamination, treatment and triage to victims of mass casualty disasters."

Dewhurst cited a recent CNN poll that showed San Antonio second only



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Texas Governor Rick Perry speaks with 311th Human Systems Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd shortly after his arrival at Brooks Feb. 28.

to New York City in mass casualty disaster preparedness.

"We must face future threats by increasing public-private partnerships in which new technologies are developed," Dewhurst said.

Perry added, "This federal grant will greatly expand our capability to detect

and respond to bioterrorism. I commend Brooks for playing a vital role (in this). As a former Air Force veteran, it heartens me to know of the work being done. We hope to leverage the resources of this base for a long, long time."

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Randolph presides at scholarship luncheon named in his honor

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Retired Gen. Bernard P. Randolph used the forum of a scholarship luncheon named in his honor to share his views on the strides African-Americans have made that coincides with Black History Month's theme "The African American Legacy: Contributions and Service in America's Defense."

"President (Harry) Truman realized that segregation in the military was not a good way of doing business. He used the military to promote integration," said Randolph, keynote speaker at the Brooks Club luncheon sponsored by the African-American Cultural Association on Feb. 21.

Randolph, who retired in 1990 as a four-star general, said Truman's initiative was a politically astute move knowing that as commander-in-chief his leadership would ensure that integration would succeed within America's Armed Forces.

Randolph last visited Brooks in 1990. Two years later, the Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship Fund was established to support college-bound high school seniors or students already attending college. Scholarship recipients participate in an essay writing contest. This year's essay theme was "How have recent events (Sept. 11 at-

tack) impacted African-Americans and their culture?"

The African-American Cultural Association annually supports the Scholarship Fund through various fundraisers that include Black History Month events held at Brooks. Four recipients divided a total of \$3,000 in scholarships awarded at this year's luncheon.

Timesa Hoover, a senior at Samuel Clemens High School in Schertz, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship as the first place winner in the essay contest's high school division. Hoover plans to attend Xavier University in New Orleans, La. with a future career in dentistry planned. Mycael Parks, a classmate of Hoover's, earned a \$500 scholarship for placing second in the essay contest in the high school division. Parks also plans to attend Xavier University, but will pursue a career as a pediatrician.

Amaeda Lowe, a freshman at the University of Texas at San Antonio, won a \$1,000 scholarship as the first place winner in the essay contest's college division. Lowe, a student aide in the Brooks Housing Office, is studying to become a lawyer. Brittany Robertson, a freshman at San Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas, earned the second place college division's \$500 scholarship. Robertson is a theatre and English major.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Four recipients divided a total of \$3,000 in scholarships awarded at this year's General Bernard P. Randolph scholarship luncheon held at the Brooks Club. The African-American Cultural Association annually supports the Scholarship Fund through various fundraisers that include Black History Month events held at Brooks.

Homeland security, anti-terrorism support earns Brooks team base's top honor

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Bolstering America's homeland security and anti-terrorism capabilities following the Sept. 11 attacks has earned a composite Air Force team the base's highest honor.

The 311th Human Systems Wing Commander's Award was recently presented to the Ruggedized Advanced Pathogen Identification Device Integrated Product Team for their work in fielding devices that can quickly identify disease-causing pathogens.

The 25-member team includes personnel from the 311th Human Systems Program Office; Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis; 311th Human Systems Wing's Plans and Programs Office; Air Force Institute of Technology; Air Combat Command; Air Force Medical Logistics Office; and Idaho Technologies of Salt

Lake City, Utah, the latter developers of this commercial off-the-shelf device.

The RAPID IPT was instrumental in fulfilling an urgent ACC request to acquire 89 RAPIDS, at a cost of \$4.7 million, that were subsequently used by Homeland Security, Homeland Defense Biological Augmentation Teams and Civil Support Laboratory Response Network members. The IPT also was responsible for helping train these groups and provided guidance on equipment sustainment.

Years before the war on terrorism, Air Force leaders urged government scientists to develop technological capabilities for quickly identifying bacteria and viruses that cause human illness and death. In 1997, Brig. Gen. Klaus Schafer, ACC Surgeon General, challenged Air Force scientists to adapt LightCycler, the nonmilitary version of RAPID, for military use.

The RAPID prototype was first field tested at

Brooks in 1998 by AFIERA's Epidemiology Lab.

"The key to stopping disease from spreading is quick identification. Microorganisms like salmonella spread quickly and can put you down in a hurry. An outbreak impacts manning, which causes mission degradation," said Dr. (Col.) Debra Niemeyer, senior staff scientist with the U.S. Air Force Force Protection Battlelab at Lackland Air Force Base. In 2000, RAPID proved itself operationally valuable when it was used in Saudi Arabia to limit the spread of a salmonella outbreak among American military service personnel.

The size of suitcase, RAPID provides near, real-time identification of biological threats by probing microbial DNA for genetic markers present on disease-causing organisms. "We can identify microorganisms in patient samples within a couple of hours, compared to three to four days using standard techniques," Niemeyer said.

March Enlisted Promotions

We SALUTE



The following Brooks enlisted members will be promoted in March.

To Master Sergeant:
Douglas Ochodnicky
311th Human Systems Wing

To Senior Airman:
Victoria Forant
311th Medical Squadron
Jamie Gomez
68th Information Operations Squadron
Hok Lee
311th MDS
Ryan Madison
68th IOS
Kristen Oberdick
68th IOS
Esteban Perez
311th Air Base Group

To Airman First Class:
Michael Breaux
68th IOS
Anna Lall
311th MDS

To Airman:
Serpico Elliot
311th CS



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sabrina Johnson

Sign us up
Command Chief Master Sgt. Darlin Evans, left, 311th Human Systems Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd and Lt. Col. Stuart Cowles, 311th HSW vice commander, sign their Air Force Assistance Fund donation slips. The AFAF was established to provide an annual effort to raise funds supporting Air Force people and their families in times of need.



SPO changes directors amidst ‘Warr-like’ remarks

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Their ‘Warr-like’ remarks were made to underscore how the outgoing 311th Human Systems Program Office director’s leadership in peacetime helped ensure warfighter readiness that now is being successfully leveraged during America’s war on terrorism.

“To say Doc Warr’s leadership of the SPO during the past two-and-a-half years has been superb is an understatement,” said Lt. Gen. Richard Reynolds, Aeronautical Systems Center commander. Praising outgoing director Col. Dartanian Warr, Reynolds added, “His two themes (priorities) have been mission and people. We have better equipped warfighters because of Warr’s leadership.”

Reynolds presided at the Feb. 28 change of directors ceremony held at Brooks. Col. Albert Burnett assumed the 311th SPO directorship.

Reynolds cited a litany of accomplishments the SPO has made during Warr’s tour. Among the technologies the SPO helped develop, test and field are Clear Laser Eye Protection for Infrared spectacles, Ruggedized Advanced Pathogen Identification Device, Evader Night Vision Imaging System and Patient Support Pallet.

“Doc has had a great team behind him. These are people of character,” Reynolds noted. The ASC commander was particularly effusive about Warr’s

initiative to promote SPO capabilities through the dynamic “Circle of Life” presentation.

Reynolds said, “Doc has created a great tool for telling the SPO’s story. A lot of the Air Force knows about it. That is the kind of connection to the Air Force that is critical - focusing on customer satisfaction.”

Reynolds said Warr’s energy, vision and dedication are assets that will help ensure his success as the Air Force Materiel Command’s new Inspector General.

Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, said of Warr, “He has truly done an outstanding job leading the SPO in turbulent times. He has focused on taking care of his people. He has reached out to users in a way I’ve never seen before.”

As a consequence of Warr’s actions, Dodd explained, SPO morale, training and educational, and operational efficiency have significantly improved. Dodd said the SPO’s “support the warfighter mentality” has elevated the base’s reputation among customers for satisfying mission requirements.

Warr, a former White House fellow and 1980 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, said, “Leadership is all about serving those around you and teaching a ‘service’ mentality.”

Acknowledging Burnett’s experience as a B-52 navigator/bombardier, Reynolds said, “Al brings a true warrior knowledge to the directorship.”

The Fort Worth native earned an Air Force commission in 1976 through Texas A&M University’s ROTC program. Burnett returns to Brooks for his



Photo by Don Sutherland

Lt. Gen. Richard Reynolds, Aeronautical Systems Center commander, left, presided over the change of directorship ceremony for the 311th Human Systems Program Office Feb. 28. Col. Al Burnett, front center assumed leadership from Col. ‘Doc’ Warr, right.

second tour, having previously served as the base’s deputy Air Base Group commander from 1995-1998.

Dodd said Burnett has a great acquisition background, something he’ll need to rely upon during significant Air Force acquisition transitions that will occur over the next three years.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Use caution at Brooks main gate

By Amando Perez Jr.
Brooks Safety Office

The intersection of Southwest Military Drive and North Road is the main intersection most Brooks personnel use to enter and exit the base. Drivers should use caution while driving through this area to avoid a mishap. There are three problems at this intersection that routinely cause fender-benders.

Firstly, drivers entering the gate, either turning left from the westbound lanes or turning right from eastbound lanes of Southwest Military Drive need to slow down and allow their fellow drivers the courtesy to merge into one lane entering the main gate and towards North Road.

Secondly, this same intersection poses a more serious hazard when exiting the base. As drivers depart the base, North Road turns into three lanes. The far left lane is a dedicated left turn only, the center lane allows motorists to drive straight across, turn left or turn right, and the far right lane is a dedicated right turn only. The problem comes when motorists in

the center lane turn right on a red light. This is dangerous as well as illegal, according to the San Antonio Police Department. The only time drivers may legally turn right from the center lane is when the green protective arrow is on. To remind drivers to stop this practice, the City of San Antonio, Traffic Engineering Division is planning to post a “No Right Turn On Red From Center Lane” sign.

Additionally, when motorists turn right from the center lane they must stay in their respective lane, or carefully signal and change lanes.

Last, but not least, is the far right turning lane. Some people turn right and immediately turn into the left lane without regard for traffic in the center lane. This often leads to traffic accidents.

Remember, if the light is red, stop at the intersection. When the light turns green, look left for oncoming traffic. When it is safe to do so turn into the intersection. Then, check your mirror and blind spot for other traffic and carefully merge.

These simple tips may help avoid an accident and the headache that often accompanies it.

Brooks Toastmasters host speaker’s series

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks chapter of Toastmasters International is inviting the Brooks community to attend their first base speaker’s series that could earn the group the moniker “Toasts of the Town.”

“This speaker’s series focuses on communication skills that we hope will benefit the entire base,” said 1st Lt. Mike Wyman, event organizer. The series, featuring speakers who work at Brooks is open to the public.

The three-week series began March 6 with Capt. Michelle Rainey’s discussion on what promotion boards look for when they conduct evaluations. The series continues March 13 at 11:30 a.m. with Richard Young’s presentation on non-verbal communications.

Roger Wilkson’s discussion on teleconferencing techniques concludes the series March 20

at 11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 537, Rm. 125.

“We’re trying to get the public involved,” said Wyman, who recently joined Toastmasters.

Established in 1924, Toastmasters is a worldwide organization that encompasses more than 8,000 chapters and 3 million members. Members commit to self-improvement through developing effective communication and leadership skills.

“I became involved after I realized that I was relying on briefing slides to communicate. I was getting sloppy with my communication skills,” admits Wyman.

The series is designed to provide audiences with valuable information while giving presenters a forum to perfect their public speaking skills.

For more information or to become a member, contact 2nd Lt. Kevin Wegener, Brooks chapter president, at 536-6556 or Wyman at 536-8614.



ACTION LINE

536-2222



Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-3310
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571
311th Air Base Group Logistics Division.....	536-3541
Safety.....	536-2111
Housing Maintenance.....	536-7000
Housing Office.....	536-1840
311th Services Division.....	536-2545
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715
Military Personnel.....	536-1845
Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
Military Pay.....	536-1851
Civilian Pay.....	536-2823
I.G. (FWA).....	536-2358
Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Base Exchange.....	533-9161
Commissary.....	536-3549
Brooks City Base Project Office.....	536-6626



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444 for information

3-Day transition seminar

8 a.m.-4 p.m., March 12-14, Bldg. 537—

Making the transition from the military to the civilian sector can be a big undertaking. This seminar allows us to better serve those separating and retiring members and their spouses. Topics include job search preparation resume writing, interviewing skills, including appropriate dress, veteran's benefits, and much more. Members should attend a least 180 days prior to retirement or separation.

Sponsor training

10-11 a.m., March 18, Bldg. 537—

In accordance with AFI 36-3011, sponsor training is mandatory of all first-time sponsors and those who have not sponsored

within the past year. However, others are more than welcome to attend. Come to this "Year of the Family" class and learn about tools and resources available for sponsors.

Bundles for Babies—expectant parents session

9 a.m. - noon, March 19, Bldg. 537—

Are you expecting a child? If so, this Air Force Aid Society sponsored class is for you. Obtain information about budgeting, basic baby care, infant development, effective parenting, and much more.

Credit and debt management

11 a.m. - 1 p.m., March 20, Bldg. 537—

Sign up for this seminar and learn how to choose credit that is right for you, find out how to obtain your credit reports, how to rebuild your credit and more.

San Antonio military community job fair

9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., March 20, Bldg. 538—

Approximately 150 employers will be recruiting for all types of jobs. Whether you are seeking employment now or gathering information for future career decisions, make this job fair a part of your transition/job search strategy. Where else can you reach so many employers in a single event?

The Job Fair is open to all Department of Defense military, active duty and retired, civilian personnel, and family members. A list of the registered Job Fair employers will be available at: www.taonline.com.



Brooks NCO plays Cat-in-the-Hat 'purr...fectly'

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

By the end of a long day's journey into the clamorous world of make-believe as the Cat-in-the-Hat, she could no longer differentiate between Dr. Seuss and Dr. Pepper.

Nevertheless, Staff Sgt. Wendy Garcia's seemingly disorienting mental and physical fatigue was inconsequential compared to the magnitude of having encouraged children to read through her portrayal of a beloved literary feline.

"Just seeing the excitement in their faces was rewarding," said Garcia, referring to thousands of stu-

dents she visited March 1 as part of a nationwide "Read Across America" program promoted by the National Education Association. The annual event also celebrated Theodore Geisel's (aka Dr. Seuss) birthday.

"They (children) confused Dr. Seuss with the Cat-in-the-Hat," admits Garcia when recalling numerous 'happy birthday' songs sung to her during a tour of eight San Antonio Independent School District campuses sponsored by the San Antonio Teachers Council.

Garcia, assigned to the 311th Communications Squadron's Multimedia Services Center, volunteered to substitute for the original Cat-in-the-Hat who had been summoned for jury duty.

Previous experience as the Easter Bunny and a Christmas elf did not fully prepare Garcia for the tumultuous reception she experienced in the 'cartoon role' of a lifetime. Several times she was mobbed by over-exuberant children who caught her off guard.

"I had to hold her back with my hand to prevent the kids from knocking her down," said J.B. Richeson, San Antonio Teachers Council president who escorted Garcia on her frenzied tour.

"What we're trying to accomplish with this program is to encourage every child to read. It is our belief that this act can do more to promote literacy in our society than anything else," Richeson said.

Coupled with Cat-in-the-Hat visits were reading sessions supported by adult volunteers. Among various readers Garcia encountered were members of the San Antonio Police and Fire Departments, San Antonio College undergraduates and costumed adults portraying 'Mother Goose' and the 'Indian



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Garcia poses with fans of the Cat-in-the-Hat at Graebner Elementary School.

in the Cupboard.'

Garcia also encouraged students to read to her when they learned that the Cat-in-the-Hat does not talk.

What Garcia learned was to expect the unexpected. Her tour transportation featured a chauffeured jaguar convertible courtesy of Barrett Jaguar, giving her the added distinction of being the "Cat-in-a-cat." She was fed 'green eggs and ham' and was treated to an impromptu puppet show. However, she was 'speechless,' of course, at two schools whose Cat-in-the-Hat celebrations underscored the enormity of student, faculty and community involvement.

At the combined Ruiz-Barkley Elementary School celebration, an estimated 1,000 children, faculty and adult volunteer readers packed the auditorium to pay tribute to the Cat-in-the-Hat. "They sang songs to me. They even assigned me a five-year-old escort dressed as the Cat-in-the-Hat. She wouldn't let go of my hand," confessed Garcia.

After having her escort 'surgically removed' from her paw, Garcia was later flabbergasted by what she experienced at Harris Middle School. She and her two-member entourage were seated front row center in a darkened but empty school theater to witness an elaborate 'Cat-in-the-Hat' musical staged in her honor. Following the show, Garcia was further surprised by a school library reception featuring a giant birthday cake.

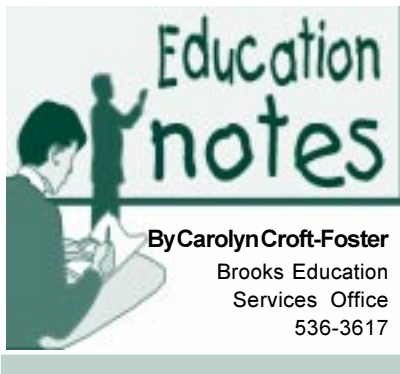
Garcia took the whole affair in stride. By the time her tour ended at the Brooks Youth Center, she had become quite adept at pantomime. "It was a (memorable) experience seeing all the children and promoting reading," she said while characterizing her day as 'purr...fect.'



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Brooks Youth Center fans of the Cat in the Hat surprised Garcia with a birthday cake.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Excelsior College essay exams

Students wishing to take an Excelsior College Essay Exam (formerly Regents College) April 5 need to request their exam today. Regular CLEP and DANTES testing is available at 8 a.m. Friday by appointment only. Call Education Services to reserve a seat or order an exam.

Math-haters class

Park University is offering Math 105 at Brooks Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5-7:30 pm. from March 18-May 12. The course counts as the math requirement for the CCAF in all degree catalogs. Park University representatives visit Brooks every Monday. For more information or to schedule an appointment with a representative, call 536-3617.

Flex 2 registration

Registration is underway for

on-base classes offered during the next Flex Session, March 18-May 9.

The following classes are offered during evening hours; Freshman English 2, U.S. History 2, Ethics and Speech. Alamo Community College District representatives are at Brooks every Tuesday.

Call the education center at 536-3617 to schedule and appointment.

CCAF increases value of 5-level

Effective Feb. 15, the value of 5-level Internship credit was changed from four semester hours to eight semester hours.

These credits are applicable as technical core credit in all catalogs.

Students who believe these additional credits will complete their degree requirements need to call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment.

Officer training school

Enlisted members who have completed a bachelor's degree or are within 270 days of completion are eligible to apply to Office Training School.

There are three boards remaining for this Fiscal Year. Deadlines are March 26, May 7, and June 18.

For more information or to schedule a commissioning appointment, please call 536-3617.

General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program

Concerned about the soaring cost of higher education for your children?

Maybe the Air Force Aid Society can help. The Society's General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program awards \$1500 grants to dependent sons and daughters of active duty, retired, or deceased Air Force members, spouses of active duty stationed state-side and widows of deceased members, retired reservists, whether or not they are receiving retired pay, Title 10 AGR/Reservists on extended active duty, Title 32 ANG performing full-time active duty.

Awards for the 2002-2003 academic year will be announced in June. Use of fund is limited to tuition, books and fees, or other direct educational expenses.

Application deadline is March 15. Visit your AFAS section or the society's web site at www.afas.org for information and an application. Applications are also available at the Brooks Family Support Center, Bldg. 537 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. weekdays. Call 536-2444 for more information.

Tax Tips

The Brooks Tax Center, located in Bldg. 912, is currently accepting appointments for active duty, reservists, retirees, and dependents wanting to electronically file their tax returns. E-filing is a fast, easy and secure way to transmit your tax documents to the Internal Revenue Service.

The Tax Center is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8-11 a.m. and noon-3 p.m. A late shift is also available Wednesday afternoon from 4:30-6 p.m.

Department of Defense civilian employees who do not hold a military identification card are eligible for tax appointments March 12-14, and March 19-21.

All other appointments can be scheduled at any time during duty hours by calling 536-8696.

E-file for free at the Brooks tax office.



NEWS

briefs

Workgroup managers meeting

The first quarterly workgroup managers meeting for 2002 is scheduled for 2 p.m. March 19 in the Family Support Center classroom. Contact Master Sgt. John Rodriguez at 536-1937 or Tech. Sgt. Richard Rowley at 536-2211 for more information.

Altitude test subjects

Scientists at Brooks need a number of volunteer subjects for participation in hypobaric (altitude) chamber research projects.

Air Force aircrew members who are interested and meet the qualifications will earn approximately \$150 per month for participating in one session per month.

Volunteers must meet Air Force body fat, height/weight standards, be a non-smoker for at least two years, be between 20-45 years old, and be able to pass an appropriate physical exam.

Contact Jim Carlile at 536-3546 or Heather Alexander at 536-3440 for more information.

Tuskegee Airman open house

The San Antonio Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. hosts its second- annual membership social and open house at 6:30 p.m tonight at the Randolph Air Force Base Officers' Club. Several local members who are

original Tuskegee airmen will attend the free event. Refreshments, music and memorabilia will be available.

For more information contact Rick Sinkfield at 536-4188, or e-mail marv.abrams@randolph.af.mil.

Wilford Hall seeks nurses, technicians

As part of a bed expansion project at Wilford Hall Medical Center, the U.S. Air Force hospital is seeking to hire about 100 specialized nurses and medical technicians. Nurses from the hospital will assist the Lackland Air Force Base civilian personnel office at a Job Fair at Crossroads Mall March 26 to fill these positions.

Specifically, the medical center is looking for 53 registered nurses, 23 licensed vocational nurses, 13 medical technicians and 12 critical care technicians.

Specialties include surgical nurses for cardiology and inpatient units, and technicians for mental health and intensive care units.

Wilford Hall is one of the three Level I trauma hospitals serving the city and this region of the state, as well as its own Department of Defense patients.

Since it runs the largest Air Force medical training programs, including the only trauma training program, and is the Air Force's only Level I trauma center, the additional bed capacity will allow the teaching hospital to better support these programs and the local community.

IG unit inspection headed for the wing

Inspector General Activities, AFI 90-201, outlines the requirements for the evaluation and health of each organization.

The Aeronautical Systems Center's, Office of the Inspector General Team will arrive April 28 to conduct a Unit Compliance Inspection of our Wing.

According to Mr. Tom Severyn, AFMC/IGIP, they continue to use the following criteria:

In Compliance—

Few, if any deficiencies exist. A number of items are not in compliance resulting in minor or negligible mission impact.

In Compliance with Exception—

Resources and programs are relatively free of deficiencies. A number of items are not in compliance resulting in critical or significant mission impact.

Not In Compliance—

Resources and programs are not adequately managed. A number of items are not in compliance resulting in grave mission support.

To assist the Wing in getting prepared, the Air Force Materiel Com-

mand, Office of the Inspector General website lists each unit's compliance checklist. Access the site by visiting: www.afkm.wpafb.af.mil/AS

Those preparing for the inspection are encouraged to contact functional units if checklists require changes.

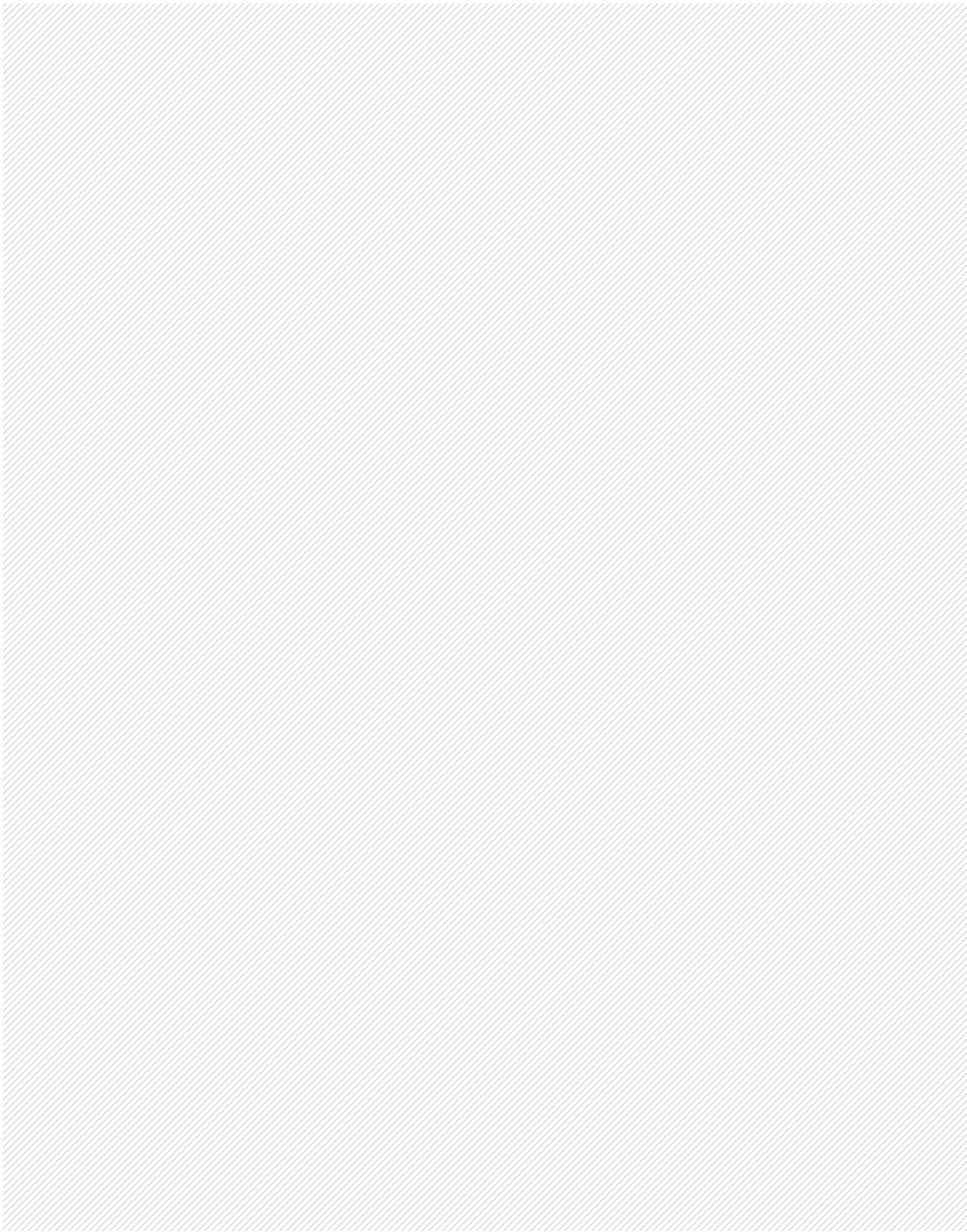
A 311 HSW/IG UCI Team was formed and is preparing the Wing for a successful outcome. Unit representative by Team members can be found on the 311 HSW/IG homepage by visiting: www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/IG.

Everyone's support and full cooperation will be crucial in making this Wing-Team effort a success. Check out this website for ongoing IG schedule of events.

Other tips: all unit training managers should conduct informal section visits to ensure proper documentation as required by Air Force standards. Get everyone who needs training scheduled for it.

See your unit compliance inspection team member to see how you can help. Team members are listed on the Brooks IG web page.

In compliance,
in compliance
with exception,
or not in
compliance—
what will you
be?





Brooks Air Force Base

Brooks host to more than 1500 students



Students wowed by Aerospace Day venues

Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

From applied physics used to ensure astronauts' survival of micrometeor impacts to research promoting the use of killer bees in detonating land mines, students who attended Aerospace Career Day 2002 were wowed by the federal government's contributions to science.

"Our pathophysiology students were particularly interested in hyperbaric medicine and astronomy," said Chuck Baker, a Southwest High School health science teacher who is a retired Air Force surgical technician. The former Wilford Hall Medical Center surgery instructor noted that the various ACD venues provided his class an opportunity to consider various careers associated with their study of disease.

The most popular ACD venues included space suit design conducted by NASA engineer Amy Ross, Jody Harkrider's Challenger Learning Center astronomy presentation, and Lt. Col. Tom Rampy's Office for Applied Solutions in Operational Medicine briefing that showcased homeland defense initiatives.

Col. Chris Kleinsmith, ACD project officer, was particularly appreciative of the NASA engineer's contributions.

"Just watching you with the kids and seeing the level of interest and concentration in their eyes was magic," Kleinsmith told Ross during an award ceremony honoring the NASA scientist.

"My presentation supports NASA's community and education outreach program, part of our charter that established the agency in 1958," Ross said.

Ross mesmerized her audiences with intriguing facts about space suits used on shuttle missions. Her most impressive prop was a full-scale space suit used during space walks called an Extra Vehicular Mobility Unit.

She described how EVMUs have five insulating layers that protect astronauts from radiation, the airless vacuum of space which can boil human blood at body temperature, and temperature extremes in low earth orbit (where the international space station is located) that range between plus and minus 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ross focused on the challenges of designing space suits to withstand cosmic debris during space walks.

"Ballistic velocity (from fired weapons) is 400 mph. We have to shield astronauts from the hypervelocity of micrometeors that travel at 17,500 mph," Ross said. Since astronauts, tethered to the shuttle, are also traveling at 17,500 mph, the speed at impact from these

pinpoint-sized space pebbles is doubled, she explained.

Ross also discussed space suit systems that eliminate excess body heat, prevent carbon dioxide buildup and provide body waste storage.

Harkrider's astronomy class mimicked a planetarium environment as she relied on images primarily photographed by the Hubble Space Telescope. Calling astronomy "the study of infinity," she promoted mathematics to students considering astronomy careers.

"It's the only science that you don't have to be a professional to pursue," Harkrider said, referring to the many discoveries and contributions amateur astronomers have made that have advanced scientific understanding of the universe.

Rampy's "Cutting Edge Jobs In Civilian-Military Partnerships" briefing focused on joint counter-bioterrorism research. As chief of ASOM's medical disaster preparedness, Rampy discussed San Antonio's anti-terrorist plan and emerging technologies and defensive strategies that leverage insect and animal capabilities.

Approximately 1,500 students participated in the base's three-day event.

Rudolph.Purificato@brooks.af.mil



Aerospace Career Day 2002

Some of the 1500 students who visited Brooks for Aerospace Career Day pose for a photo outside the C-130 during the Flight Nursing Tour.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez



1st Lt. Mike Wyman, 311th Human Systems Program Office, uses a student in his ejection seat demonstration.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Sabrina Johnson



Dr. Eric Holwitt demonstrates 'chemistry magic' for students.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Sabrina Johnson



Amy Ross, a NASA space suit engineer, explains the challenges of designing space suits to withstand cosmic debris during space walks.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez



Capt. Beth Ann Lumpkin-Gambill of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine talks to area students inside the cockpit of a C-141 during the Flight Nursing Tour.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez



BROOKS

SPOTLIGHT

Things to do around Brooks

By Jan McMahon

Brooks Services Marketing Office

536-5475

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782
OXYmorons Comedy Troupe is back at Brooks. Make plans to attend the show and have dinner March 9. Social Hour is from 6:30 to 7 p.m. and the buffet dinner will be served from 7 to 8 p.m. The buffet includes chicken, roast beef, rice pilaf, oven baked potatoes, green beans almondine, glazed carrots, salad, rolls and iced tea. The show starts at 8 p.m.

Spend the evening laughing with the very talented comedians. Cost is \$25 per person, and includes the show and buffet. The OXYmorons Comedy troupe performs weekly at the Woodlawn Theatre and River Center Comedy Club in San Antonio.

Outdoor Recreation

Bldg. 1154, 536-2881
Reserve a pavilion now. Summer is fast approaching and everyone’s thoughts will turn to picnics, cookouts or just being outdoors. There are four pavilions that can be reserved for your special function. Stop by and make your reservations today.

Rent a garden plot and grow your own produce or flowers. There are 54 numbered plots with water between every four plots. The fee is \$10 per year. Make this a family project and teach your children about preparing the soil, selecting just the right plants or seeds, planting them and then watching your garden grow to maturity. The entire family will enjoy eating produce they grew themselves.

Golf Course

Bldg. 821, 536-2636
Take advantage of the March Sale in the Pro Shop. Marked Slazenger and Titleist golf bags will be discounted 25 percent and marked golf shoes will be

offered at a 20 percent discount. Purchase them while supplies last.

March snack bar special

Purchase any regular priced sandwich from our menu and receive a medium iced tea free. Select from tuna salad, club, turkey, roast beef or any of our other sandwiches. They’re some of the best you’ll find in San Antonio.

Youth Services Center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515
The Easter bunny is arriving at Brooks March 30. The Easter Egg Hunt starts at exactly 2 p.m. so don’t be late. The hunt will be held in the area surrounding the center for four age groups: 1-3 years, 4-5 years, 6-8 years and 9-12 years. Large numbered eggs containing slips of paper can be exchanged for a prize.

Each child must bring their own basket. Hot dogs, chips and a drink will be sold for \$2 during the hunt. Photos with the Easter Bunny will also be available for \$2.50.

Enter the Easter Coloring Contest early by stopping by the center to pick up your sheet to color. All completed entries should be turned in to the center by March 25. The winner of each age group will receive an Easter basket.

The Youth Center is taking regis

trations for Spring Break Camp Monday- Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Stop by the center and register your child today. Space is limited, so hurry.

Base library

Bldg. 705, 536-2634
Base Library customers can now read eBooks online using the netLibrary Online eBook Reader, a browser-based tool that gives quick and easy access to eBooks. It is a Reference and Military collection of several thousand books. Gain access by visiting the library and getting a user id and password. You can even use this service from your home computer. Each time you login you can search, browse and even check-out eBooks. Check out time for the book is 48 hours.

The library has funds to purchase mission essential books and magazines for organizations that are eligible. Call or stop by the library for more information.

Child Development Center

Bldg. 502, 536-2736
Congratulations to Nita White for winning Appropriated Employee of the Quarter. Congratulations, also, to Maria Fuentes for being Pre-Toddler Room Leader, and to Rachel Morin for renewing her CDA Credential.



Brooks cop learns the ropes about boxing

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The more the blood smeared from his nose across his battered face, the more aggressive Arturo Dominguez became. Repeatedly backing his much taller opponent into the ropes, the Brooks cop-turned-boxer did not back away from the furiously wild punches that ensued.

In only his third amateur fight, the 311th Security Forces Squadron patrolman showed the San Antonio Regional Golden Gloves Tournament crowd why he was a member of the Air Force Boxing Team.

"I wasn't intimidated by him. He was intimidated by my punches. That's why he was dancing away from me," Dominguez said of Danny Ramon, fighting for San Antonio's Heavyweights Gym.

While Dominguez lost the light middleweight Novice Division championship bout that late February night, he took solace in knowing that with every fight he improves by learning to make adjustments in the ring.

The 22-year-old El Paso, Texas, native has made some major adjustments in his life over the past few months.

In November 2001, Dominguez began training under the guidance of

then Air Force Boxing Team coach Osmar Alanis. "He worked with me on my movements, jabs, stance and basic techniques."

A year earlier, Dominguez's interest in boxing was rekindled by his friend Airman First Class Omar Saenz,

then with the 311th Communications Squadron.

Dominguez watched his buddy win a bout at the San Fernando Gym.

"I said to myself, 'I can do this.' He (Omar) hadn't been boxing for very long and had won his first two fights."



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Pedro Ybanez

Arturo Dominguez takes a direct hit from opponent Danny Ramon.



Dominguez warms up with his coach Tech. Sgt. Ronald Simms.

Dominguez then reflected on his youth when he first felt a boxing glove's sting. His three uncles would instigate 'boxing matches' pitting Dominguez against his cousin Butch Lerma.

"We wore gloves in those backyard brawls. My uncles would get a kick out of seeing little kids beating on each other."

Dominguez enjoyed those family 'fights' and became a boxing fan. However, he had no outlet for pursuing his interest in the sport because his high school did not have a boxing program.

Dominguez joined the Air Force in October 1998 and became active athleti-

cally as a competitor in the Air Force Security Forces "Defender Challenge" competition. The metamorphosis into a boxer began shortly after seeing his friend compete.

"I dropped a lot of weight for boxing," admits Dominguez who at 5'10" and a then 190 pounds was originally going to fight as a light heavyweight. His coaches convinced him to slim down to be more competitive.

His first amateur fight as a middle weight occurred in January during the 27th Annual Air Force Boxing Championships held at the Kelly Field Annex in San Antonio. Dominguez experienced a "David vs. Goliath" mismatch when he fought 6'4" Airman First Class Terrence Graves from Osan AB, Korea. Dominguez did not know prior to the bout that Graves was a seven-year boxing veteran with more than 50 fights.

"I came out in a rage. I wanted to end it quickly," said Dominguez.

He landed the first punch, won the round and nearly depleted his energy. The fight was stopped midway in the third round due to Dominguez's fatigue.

"I learned patience. Two minutes is a long time in boxing," he confessed. He also learned not to underestimate the length of an opponent's reach.

Dominguez won his next fight as a novice in the San Antonio Regional Golden Gloves preliminaries.

By then, he had made the Air Force Boxing team. He now trains seven days a week.

"Boxing is by far the hardest thing I've ever done. There's a huge difference between being 'in shape' and being in boxing shape," he said.

His daily training regimen includes running four to five miles, a one-hour aerobics session and boxing drills that features speed and heavy bag, jumping rope and shadow boxing. His training day ends at night with a round-robin sparring session.

"I get into the ring. Seven guys (boxers) take their turn jumping into the ring with me for one minute (apiece). They work on offense. I have to block and duck. I can't hit them back. I work on my defense. I've never trained like this for any other sport."

Dominguez, however, truly loves boxing. He admits being hooked on the sport's addictive allure.

He said, "You can hear the cheering. You're entertaining people. The cheering is for you."

Youth Baseball Registration

Registration for the 2002 Brooks Youth baseball season has begun. Registration is being accepted through March 15 for ages 5-6, development league, and ages 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, and 13-15. Brooks youth will participate in the league along with Lackland and Fort Sam Houston. Non-department of Defense family members will be accepted on a space-available basis. For details, contact the Brooks Youth Services staff or Larry Flores, Brooks Youth Sports director, at 536-8130.

HAWC health tips

By Capt. Risa Riepma
Brooks Health and Wellness Center

Osteoporosis: Not just a women's concern

Osteoporosis is a disease in which the amount of calcium in bones slowly decreases to a point where they become brittle and more susceptible to fractures. After age 30, everyone's bones begin to lose density whether you are male or female. Symptoms include: bone fractures of the spine, hips, or forearms. They can occur as a result of lifting, jumping, falling or standing. In the United States, osteoporosis causes more than 1.5 million fractures every year. Usually these fractures occur in the spine, hip or wrist. Half of all white women age 50 and older can expect to have a bone fracture due to osteoporosis sometime during their remaining years. About 8 million American women and 2 million American men have osteoporosis. Follow these steps for prevention:

- * Include at least 1,000 mg of calcium each day and 1,500mg daily for postmenopausal women
- * Reduce your sodium, alcohol, and caffeine intake.
- * Participate in weight bearing activity like walking, jogging, and aerobics.
- * If you smoke, stop smoking. Smoking can increase your likelihood to having osteoporosis by up to 3 times.

For more information , contact the Health and Wellness Center at 536-4292.

Last-second shot earns ABG #2 intramural hoop title

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Capping a tense seesaw battle, the Air Base Group #2 squad recently won the base intramural league basketball championship with a stunning last-second jump shot by forward Clay Phipps.

“They buried a 15-footer at the buzzer,” said Aaron Sinclair, coach of the losing Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis team.

The always-philosophical AFIERA coach took the loss in stride, knowing his squad at least has a chance to redeem themselves during this week’s base championship tournament.

The double elimination tournament began Monday (March 4) at the fitness center gym and will conclude today with the championship game. Only the top four teams from the regular season have advanced to the tournament. Tourney participants include the league champ, AFIERA, ABG #1 and ABG #3.

The dramatic season finale was flavored with soap opera-like intrigue. Sinclair believes ABG #2 was inspired to win by claims made by his over-exuberant point guard Leo Funchess.

“Leo sent e-mails to several of their players claiming that we were going

to beat them,” Sinclair conveyed, saying that the taunting tactic only fueled their opponent’s desire to win. He said, “You can’t give an opponent an edge like that. They were fired up.”

As a consequence, ABG #2 was tenacious as evidenced by the impassioned play of point guard Robert Garcia, off-guard ‘Slim’ Bailey and center Jesus Ontiveros, all of whom are Funchess’s teammates on the base varsity squad.

“Jesus had his best game of the year. He normally doesn’t score a lot, but he was tremendous. He was diving on the floor for balls. He really wanted (to win) that game,” admits Sinclair.

Ontiveros was appreciative of Sinclair’s praise, but said the AFIERA coach’s own pre-game taunts had an effect on him.

“I didn’t get an e-mail from Funchess. I was fired up because it was a big game. Sinclair was talking ‘some smack,’ asking me before the game if I was ready to get beat,” said Ontiveros, adding that the AFIERA coach also joked about his rebounding ability.

Ontiveros was the game’s leading rebounder, dominating the boards with teammate Bailey. Garcia, meanwhile, broke down AFIERA’s defenses.

“We tried to stop his penetrations.

He didn’t do too much inside, but we let him have the outside,” explained Sinclair about Garcia’s hot perimeter shooting. Sinclair called Garcia the ‘catalyst’ that sparked his team to victory.

AFIERA’s title showdown came after stumbling against the 68th Information Operations Squadron, which didn’t make the playoffs. Sinclair’s squad was on its way to an undefeated season at 6-0 when they encountered the 68th’s playoff-like performance “They came out with a good game plan,” said Sinclair, explaining that their opponent adjusted to AFIERA’s zone. “They hit some floaters, then a couple of unexpected three-pointers,” Sinclair said. AFIERA’s first loss of the season set up the inevitable “do-or-die” contest against ABG #2.

The league champ’s only season loss came against playoff-bound ABG #3, composed mostly of 311th Security Forces Squadron personnel. “We did better this year. We were more together (cohesively) as a team. Unlike last year, we beat teams we were supposed to beat,” said ABG #3 coach Brad Dapilmoto, whose squad had won the pre-season tournament.

He said his team is confident about their chances in the base tournament. They will field a veteran team composed of guard Kevin Jones, off-guard

Manuel Palomarez and base varsity team players Colby Benjamin and Junell Dumas. Power forward John Jenkins, who replaced veteran starter Brandon Sorgenfrei’s when the latter’s job prevented him from playing, capably supports this cast.

“Anybody can win this thing,” Sinclair said about the base crown, knowing that action not words counts in the playoffs.

Final Season Standings	
ABG # 2.....	7-1
AFIERA.....	6-2
ABG # 1.....	6-2
ABG # 3.....	5-2
68 IOS.....	4-4
HSW/YA.....	4-4
ABG # 4.....	1-6
HSW/PK.....	1-6
USAFSAM....	0-7